

EACH OUT

Are there places in your neighborhood that make you feel afraid or uneasy - an abandoned house, a vacant lot littered with broken glass and junk, a street corner that attracts loiterers who bother people? Tell your parents, teachers, police, Neighborhood Watch, or citizens' organization and work together to change things. Turn the vacant lot to a community garden, organize escort patrols, repair the house so it can be a youth center.

Do you know someone who has been a victim - a friend, an elderly relative, a parent - who needs someone there to listen and help out. No matter what age, anyone who's been a victim of a crime needs time and lots of support to recover.

Do you need a project for your civics or government class?

List organizations in the community that help victims - operate hotlines for personal crises. Ask a local business to help you publish

Take a field trip to the juvenile court and a juvenile detention facility. Write about it for the school or local newspaper.

Look into ways that teens can help reduce crime in the community. Student patrols in school hallways and grounds, anti-vandalism and anti-shoplifting campaigns, teaching drug abuse prevention to younger children are only a few examples. Adults and the media often emphasize the negative side of teens. You can help set their thinking straight by showing the positive things teenagers can do.

Crime Prevention
tips from:

The National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 466-6272

**MARYLAND COMMUNITY
CRIME PREVENTION INSTITUTE**
Police Training Commission
Woodstock, MD 21163
(410) 203-1006 or 800-303-8802

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**LOOK OUT FOR
YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS,
YOUR COMMUNITY,
AND HELP ME. . . .**

**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**



McGruff

THE ART OF STREET SMARTS: KNOWING HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS MAKES GOOD SENSE.



THE ART OF STREET SMARTS!

DID YOU KNOW?

Every day there are over 2,000 violent crimes committed against teenagers by strangers.

Young people are victims of theft more frequently than are adults.

Older teenagers and young adults are physically assaulted at a higher rate than any other age group.

Two-thirds of violent crimes against teens are committed by other teens. Half those teens are strangers to their victims.

One in four rape victims in 1983 was a teenage girl.

SO WHAT?

So... Knowing how to protect yourself and your friends makes good sense. You don't need to be a walking statistic!

BE STREETWISE AND SAFE

Stand tall and walk confidently. Watch where you're going and what's happening around you.

Stick to well-lighted and busy streets. Walk with friends. Avoid shortcuts through a dark alley, a deserted street, or a wooded area.

If harassed from a car, walk quickly or run in the opposite direction to safety. If you are really scared, scream.

Never hitchhike. Accept rides only from people you know and trust.

Don't flash your cash. Just carry the money you need that day. But always have "emergency" change for a telephone call.

Know your neighborhood - when are stores and restaurants open? Where are the police and fire stations, libraries, and schools? You might need them in an emergency.

If you go out for a late night snack or a midnight movie, take a friend. Don't go alone. Most assaults happen to a lone victim.

Let someone - a parent, brother or sister, or friend - know where you are going and when you will come back. Call if you're going to be late.

If you are driving, park your car in well-lighted places and lock it when you leave. Check for uninvited passengers in the back seat or on the floor before you get back in.

JOGGING OR BIKING

Go with a friend and take familiar and well-traveled routes.

Don't jog or bike at night.

Try it without your stereo headphones. It's safer to remain alert to what's around - and behind - you.

ON THE BUS OR SUBWAY

Use stops that are well-lighted and popular. If your stop is isolated, have someone there to meet you.

Make sure you know which stop is closest to your destination. Check a map or ask the driver.

Don't fall asleep. Stay alert.

If you are harassed by anyone, attract attention by talking loudly or screaming.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CRIME

If someone attacks you, try not to panic. Look at the attacker carefully so you can give a good description to the police. Try to remember key things like age, race, complexion, body build, clothing, height and weight, hair, eyes, or unusual features.

Report any crime - a purse snatched, bike stolen, or attempted rape - to the police immediately.

If the attacker has a weapon and only wants your money or possessions, don't fight back. Your life and safety are more important!

If you're harassed by a gas go to an open store, gas station, firehouse or anywhere there are people present. Ask them for help.

